

5 Jan 1964

SUBJECT: Elmar KEERD

The information recorded below has been developed on Subject through a variety of emigre sources, including Estonian documentary overt publications (newspapers, magazines, membership lists, etc.). Though the sources have in the past generally been considered reliable, the information provided by them has stemmed not only from their first hand knowledge but also from second or third hand sources as a result of which some of this information can be considered to be emigre gossip and which, it is not to be excluded, may be inaccurate, deliberately distorted, or even patently false.

1. BIOGRAPHIC:

a. Born 23 March 1912 in Estonia.

b. Apparently graduated from the Tartu University Law Faculty as, immediately prior to the Soviet occupation of Estonia, he was employed in the States Attorney's office in Tartu. At that time he reportedly also was a reserve officer of the Estonian army.

c. When the Soviets arrived in Estonia in 1939, the appointed Estonian judges were declared hostile to the Soviet regime and undependable. The Soviet authorities, with the blessings of the NKVD, then appointed its own "reliable" judges. Subject was one of those appointed by the Soviets; he then served as a judge for the Soviets during the entire period of the Soviet occupation of Estonia.

d. When the Germans occupied Estonia, Subject went into hiding in order to avoid imprisonment or execution because of his collaboration with the Soviets. However, he later surfaced and ultimately joined the Estonian Division of the German army where he served briefly as an officer, serving as a platoon commander. He then deserted from the Estonian Division and fled to Czechoslovakia.

e. Little else is known about KEERD and his activities until his arrival in the USA sometime in the early 1950's.

f. He is presently married to Lydia KEERD.

g. Subject is employed in NYC, probably as a draftsman.

h. He is a member of the Sakala fraternity.

i. He lives at 30-70 34th Street, Long Island City, N.Y.,
YE 2-7124.

2. OTHER:

a. To keep him in line and within Estonian organizations, he has at various times served as a councillor of the Estonian National Committee

of the USA.

b. Because of his background and because of his disruptionist activities, KEERD is considered by many Estonian emigres of being emotionally unstable or a Soviet agent, or both.

c. He is described by various sources as an individual who swims in the undercurrents and who is constantly seeking to disrupt and disorient organized Estonian emigre political life.

d. He has reportedly circulated denunciatory letters against other Estonian emigres over a period of many years. (NOTE: It is possible that at least one individual can be persuaded to appear as a witness against KEERD who falsely but publicly denounced the former of "persecuting and executing" Estonian refugee camps in West Germany after WW II.) He has been particularly active in denouncing former Estonian officers.

e. Because of his disruptionist tactics, he was once expelled from the LEL. He then proceeded to form the "World Center of Estonian Fighters" which has only several members.

f. Many Estonian sources describe him as an individual who, in addition to disrupting and disorienting organized Estonian political life, has sponsored dissident organizations which have had, and continue to have, as their sole purpose, the creation of splinter groups within the Estonian emigration. Inasmuch as this primarily serves the purpose of the Soviet Intelligence, KEERD is considered by his fellow Estonian countrymen as serving, wittingly or unwittingly, the purposes of the Soviet Intelligence.

g. As was reported earlier, Subject was the individual responsible for bringing HEINE to the USA when HEINE could find no one else to sponsor him and his film in the USA.

h. KEERD has admitted sending out denunciatory letters against RAUS in the RAUS-HEINE controversy.

i. He is described as a "constant intriguer".

j. NOTE: See also the attached report on KAESKA.

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